



USING SIMULATION TRAINING TO DRIVE EXCELLENCE IN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

There is a growing body of evidence supporting the effectiveness of clinical simulation in improving the proficiency and performance of health care providers and in improving patient safety. Simulation strengthens confidence and promotes competence by providing a safe and supportive environment for mastering skills, practicing protocols, learning system-based practices, applying critical decision-making skills and developing communication and interpersonal skills.

Recognizing the strengths of clinical simulation training, the Veterans Health Administration established the Simulation Learning, Education and Research Network in 2009. SimLEARN is a national program for advancing clinical simulation training, education and research across VHA. The program is a collaborative effort of the Employee Education System, Office of Patient Care Services and Office of Nursing Services program offices.

SimLEARN serves as a valuable resource to VHA health care providers and educators on the operational strategies, simulation technologies and training methods needed to address local training priorities. The SimLEARN program is developing curricula to address national clinical priorities, including women Veteran's health and surgical team training. The program also provides model operational policies, procedures, standards and guidelines for VHA simulation activities.

Planning is under way for the VHA National Simulation Center at Lake Nona, near Orlando, Fla. The center will use train-the-trainer approaches utilizing the most suitable modalities of simulation. Modalities will include mannequin-based simulation, virtual patients, standardized patients, virtual environments and haptic and non-haptic task trainers.

Flip over this sheet to learn more about the VHA program office partners supporting the SimLEARN program

To learn more, visit www.simlearn.va.gov



SIMLEARN PROGRAM OFFICE PARTNERS

ABOUT EES [To learn more, visit vaww.ees.lrn.va.gov](http://vaww.ees.lrn.va.gov)

The Employee Education System partners with clients in VHA's program offices, Veterans Integrated Service Networks and facilities to provide quality education and training that facilitates excellence in health care for our nation's Veterans. EES is leading the cultural transformation of VHA into a Learning Organization, linking learning and organizational health to employee engagement, patient satisfaction and health care outcomes. To ensure the quality, relevance and value of the training that we offer, EES maintains accreditations with thirteen health care professional organizations. Learning takes place in a number of settings and formats, often in tandem as part of a blended learning strategy. On the cutting edge of adult learning, EES is innovating curricula and training that utilize clinical simulation training and social media to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and health care outcomes of the "classroom" experience. Additionally, EES works closely with VHA learning leaders and the VA Learning University on department-wide initiatives, including coordinating training and managing learning infrastructure such as the VA Knowledge Network satellite network, the VA Content Delivery Network desktop learning system and the VA Talent Management System. EES also coordinates interagency sharing of learning resources that produce significant cost avoidances and that benefit learners in VA and a number of other Federal agencies.



ABOUT ONS [To learn more, visit www.va.gov/nursing](http://www.va.gov/nursing)

The Office of Nursing Services provides leadership, guidance and strategic direction on all issues related to nursing practice and nursing workforce for clinical programs across the continuum of care and across the spectrum of care delivery sites that impact our Veterans. Through its portfolios and partnerships with its shared governance advisory groups, ONS provides policy guidance and program implementation to create, implement and evaluate the national nursing strategic plan and support the Under Secretary for Health, other VHA program offices and VA Nursing. Through its implementation, the plan benefits nursing practice, professional development and workforce management. ONS continues to promote nursing innovation and transformation through educational programming and research, and applies evidence-based practices to improve quality and patient safety for Veterans. In its work throughout VA, with schools of nursing and professional health policy organizations, ONS helps further VA Nursing as a dynamic, diverse group of honored, respected and compassionate professionals, and establish VA as a leader in the creation of an organizational culture where excellence in nursing is valued as essential for quality health care to those who served America.

ABOUT PCS [To learn more, visit www.patientcare.va.gov](http://www.patientcare.va.gov)

The Office of Patient Care Services strives to be an invaluable resource to the Department of Veterans Affairs in providing leadership in clinical care and promoting the best possible health for our nation's Veterans. Patient Care Services is dedicated to ensuring excellence for Veterans in the full continuum of health care (from health promotion, disease prevention, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative to recovery and palliative care). Our goal is to provide care through policy and program development and oversight, which promotes dignity and respect and is achieved by utilizing innovative approaches and technologies through interdisciplinary collaboration both within and outside the Veterans Health Administration. PCS functions and services are available to support both the Office of the Under Secretary for Health, VHA program offices and the field at large. PCS provides clinical leadership, facilitates coordination and integration of clinical care with research and education, and actively contributes to emergency medical preparedness. All PCS clinical programs align with VHA strategic goals – holding patient care as central to the mission of VHA. PCS clinical leaders function as advocates and managers and collaborate across disciplines in the overall best interests of patients and the organization. Major clinical policy guidance is provided by clinical experts in PCS to senior leadership. PCS is committed to providing excellent customer service, and PCS leaders catalyze and promote diffusion of best practices and technologies throughout VHA.

